

The Sydney Morning Herald.

SYDNEY, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1883.

14 PAGES.

PRICE 2d.

No. 14,004.

Births.

ANDERSON.—February 14, at Akarana, Gibb Point, the wife of Arthur Anderson, of a son.

GLEESON.—January 22, at her residence, Victoria-street, Mrs. H. C. Gleeson, of a son.

HUCHESBORG.—February 14, at 62, Macleay-street, Port Phillip Point, the wife of Joseph Huchesborg, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

TROUS—NOLAND.—By special license, at the residence of the bridegroom's parents, by the Rev. Father Mariano, Charles, third eldest son of Mr. Joshua Trou, of Melbourne, Station, New England, and Elsie Eleanor Main, the eldest daughter of Mr. Denis Noland, of Whitemead, Beaconsfield.

Deaths.

ATKINSON.—February 8, 1883, at his residence, 57, Pitt-street, Sydney, Mr. Atkinson, aged 80 years.

THOMAS.—February 14, Henry Clarence Johnston, absentee of London, in his 60th year.

O'HIRIN.—In loving remembrance of my dearly beloved husband, James O'Hirin, who died on February 14, 1883. His wife, Mrs. O'Hirin, who died on January 20, 1883, has left us to memory dear.

ROBERTSON.—February 8, 1883, at his residence, Wellington-vale, Deepwater, Robert Reid Cunningham Robertson, in his 66th year.

ROBERTSON.—In affectionate remembrance of Arthur Robertson, who died at Belfast, 1822, eldest son of the late Captain Arthur Robertson of Elgin, only brother of Mrs. Wm. Robertson, of New Zealand, and a native of Ulster. New Zealand papers copy.

ROGERS.—February 8, Miss Kate Rodgers, eldest daughter of Mrs. Rodgers, No. 23, Bank-street, Chatswood.

THOMAS.—February 8, 1883, at his residence, Pitt-street, Sydney, Mrs. Thomas, widow of Mr. Thomas, and youngest daughter of Mr. T. Jackson, late of Orange, aged 23 years.

WISMAN.—February 8, 1883, at 21, Birkenhead-terrace, St. Petersburgh, Peter Wisman, infant son of Mr. E. and Mrs. Wisman, aged three months.

A GENCE HAYAR.—Place of birth, Hayar, Farm—AGENTS FOR THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, the SYDNEY MAIL, and the ECHO, in Pitt-street, Sydney. All news can be received and sent by the above news papers.

London address : AGENCIE MITCHELL, 22, Gracechurch-street.

Shipping.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY. TO PASSENGERS DESIROUS OF AVOIDING THE HEAT AND DISCOMFORT OF THE RED SEA.

OVERLAND ROUTE TO GREAT BRITAIN, THROUGH AMERICA, under contract with the United States and New Zealand Government.

THE magnificient steamship of the line, now Sydney for San Francisco (call on Andamans and Honolulu) every fourth

THURSDAY, at 5 p.m., as under—

Steamer. Date. Date of Departure.

CITY OF SYDNEY ... Feb. 22, 1883. June 12, 1883 Oct. 4, 1883

AUSTRALIA ... 22, 1883. July 12, 1883 Nov. 1, 1883

CITY OF NEW YORK ... 24, 1883. Sept. 9, 1883

EUROPEAN MAIL ... 26, 1883. Sept. 17, 1883 Nov. 1, 1883

Passengers are booked to any point on the principal Railroad Routes in the United States, Canada, or through Liverpool, London, or Paris, etc., with connecting steamer services to all the principal ports of the Southern Pacific Railroad (with its connections) now open; thus avoiding the winter's cold of the main Northern Route; and for a slight additional charge will be made for the southern route, via the Orient and Japan to New York.

Passengers have orders of the most reliable Atlantic shipping of Canada, including the Great Lakes and other lines. All steamship passages are allowed 250 lbs. baggage FREE OF CHARGE.

Tickets are good until used, and allow passengers to stop off as they choose, to visit any place en route. Passengers are also allowed to change their tickets, and are allowed on steamers' tickets for Australia and Honolulu.

THROUGH FARE TO LONDON, FIRST CLASS, £60 and upwards.

Time cards, railway maps, and guide books, showing all routes to any point in United States, may be had on application.

Drawers, payable in gold in San Francisco, issued by the undersigned.

For rates of passage and freight, and all other information, apply to

GILCHRIST, WATT, and CO., General Agents, 1, Pitt-street, Sydney.

DIRECT SERVICE TO ENGLAND.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The Company's service, with the Victoria Government for the Convoys to H.M. Mail, will be despatched as under, from the Company's Wharf, at the Circular Quay, DIRECT TO PLYMOUTH AND LONDON, via Colombo, calling at Melbourne, Gladstone, and King George V. via Suez.

Steamer. Commander. Date. Leaves.

Siam ... 1883. E. Ashdown ... 1883. March 1. March 3

Nizam ... 1883. H. Harvey ... 1883. March 9. 15. May 17.

Paramatta ... 1883. E. Barlow ... 1883. April 1. 15. May 1.

Admiral ... 1883. J. B. B. Shannon ... 1883. April 19. April 26. April 26.

Rosetta ... 1883. G. W. Brady ... 1883. May 2. May 10.

and throughout every alternate week.

Rates of Passage money to Plymouth or London—£70 first and £40 second class, £25 first, and £20 second class, inclusive of cost of transit through Egypt.

RETURN TICKETS TO EUROPE granted at greatly reduced rates.

Passenger, cargo, and parcels are booked through to India, China, and Japan.

For all information, apply at the Company's Offices, 247, George-street.

J. WHIRL, Agent.

Q. I. N. E.

The following Steamships, belonging to the ORIENT CO., are the PACIFIC CO., will leave SYDNEY at 4 p.m. on the undermentioned dates, for LONDON via Melbourne, Adelais, Diego Garcia (at steamer's option), the Suez Canal, and Naples—ship, The Date. Date.

CUZO ... 3/8/83. Feb. 16 (CEPHALONIA). 3/17. March 16 LIGURIAN ... 3/8/83. Feb. 16 (CEPHALONIA). 3/17. March 20

Passenger, cargo, and parcels are booked through to India, China, and Japan.

For all information, apply at the Company's Offices, 247, George-street.

G. S. YUILL, General Manager in Australia.

ORIENT LINE OF STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO PASSENGERS.

SEASON 1883.

The following magnificent steamships, fitted with every modern luxury, will be specially provided for passengers to Europe during the ensuing season—

Tuna. H. F. Leaves Sydney.

SA. LIGURIA ... 1883. 1883. March 18.

S.S. CEPHALONIA (new) ... 1883. 1883. March 20.

S.S. IBERIA ... 1883. 1883. March 20.

S.S. GARDONE ... 1883. 1883. April 1.

S.S. ORIENT ... 1883. 1883. April 1.

The steamer will direct, via Diego Garcia (at steamer's option) and the Suez Canal, sailing at Naples.

It is to be noted that the above steamers, with their extremely high rate of speed, will accomplish some of the fastest passages on record.

Passenger, cargo, and parcels are booked through to India, China, and Japan.

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G. S. YUILL, General Manager in Australia.

UNION STEAM COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND, Limited.

REGULAR COMMUNICATION TO ALL NEW ZEALAND PORTS.

FROM SYDNEY.

FOR AUSTRALIA, CYPRESS, MAJESTIC, WELLINGTON, UNION, and PORT CHALMERS, DUNEDIN.

WAIRARAPA, 1883 tons, TO-MORROW, Thursday, 18th February, at 4 p.m. Goods to noon, and free goods till 2 p.m.

FOR WELLINGTON, 1883 tons, PORT CHALMERS, UNION, and PORT CHALMERS, DUNEDIN.

WAKATIPU, 1784 tons, WEDNESDAY, 19th March.

FROM MELBOURNE.

MANNING RIVER.

THE S.S. BOUNDARY.

will leave the New Wharf, foot of King-street, Sydney, on SATURDAY NIGHT, 18th FEBRUARY, 1883.

having large staterooms will meet with great success.

For freight or passage apply to Captain on board of Circular Quay, or to

DANIELS, GEDYE, and CO.

Agents for Circular Quay.

Return Tickets available by other steamers.

NIPPER and CO., 188, Pitt-street.

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Amusements.

GAIETY THEATRE.
Lester ... Mr. L. M. Barnes.
Director ... Mrs. M. Gladstone-Brown.
Under the management of Mr. FRANK TOWERS,
and THE GAIETY DRAMATIC COMPANY.
THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING, FEBRUARY 14,
LAST NIGHT BUT ONE
FRANK TOWERS' GREAT EMOTIONAL DRAMA,
"A DAY
of
the
STREETS."
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16,
FAREWELL BENEFIT TO MR. FRANK TOWERS,
and sensitively
LAST NIGHT OF THE WEEK ON THE STREETS,
LAST NIGHT OF PRIDE,
to conclude with the evergreen Farce,
BOX AND CO.

(on this occasion) ... Mr. James D. Cox
Mrs. BOUNCES ... Miss Frank Towers
Mr. POLK ... Miss Ross TOWERS.
An active preparation, and will be produced on
SAUNDAY, February 17.

Prices: Chair, 5s; Stalls, 2s; Balcony (all parts), Is.
Doors open at 7.15. Commence at 8.

Received seats, 4s each; at Nicholson's, 233, George-street.

" Shall our Beligion be based upon Pashes that Common Sense
Discards, or on the Solid Facts of Science?"

Admission, 1s, 2s, and 3s.

A Lecture of intense interest.
Questions may be asked at the close.

T. DENTON Right? A reply. Masonic Hall, shortly.

TRADE DEFENCE ASSOCIATION OF N. S. W.

COMMEMORATIVE PICNIC
will be held at Clarendon on MONDAY, the 6th of February,
to welcome the return from Europe of
A. C. GARRICK, Esq., President of the Association,
Members of the Committee, or Secretary of the Association.

E. G. CHERRYND, Secretary.

ALL ENGLAND v. AUSTRALIA.

ALL ENGLAND V. AUSTRALIA.
ALL ENGLAND V. AUSTRALIA.

ASSOCIATION CRICKET GROUND.

SATURDAY, MONDAY, and TUESDAY—
SATURDAY, MONDAY, and TUESDAY.

17th, 18th, and 19th FEBRUARY, 1883.

17th, 18th, and 19th FEBRUARY, 1883.

Play to commence at 12 noon.

Luncheon at 1.30 p.m.

Passes issued at 1 and 2 shillings.

Gates open at 10.30 a.m.

Trams will run in the ground gates.

Ground Rules and Regulation strictly Enforced.

Admission, 1s; Grand Stand, 2s; 6d extra.

NOTE.—The Match will commence on Saturday, instead of
Friday, as previously advertised.

JAMES PERCY,
Secretary Association Cricket Ground.

387, George-street.

O T I C E .

ENGLAND V. AUSTRALIA.

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MATCH COMMENCES
on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17.

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on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17,

on Friday, February 16.

JAMES PERCY,
Secretary Association Cricket Ground.

387, George-street.

A L L ENGLAND V. AUSTRALIA.

SATURDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY.

THE CITY CATERING COMPANY
will supply the usual.

£2 6d LUNCHEON IN GRAND STAND,
from 12.30 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS FOR LADIES.

Tea, Coffee, Sandwiches, Ice, Fruit, &c.

DRINKS AT THE BAR ARE ALL FIRST-CLASS.

DANCING-CLASSE, CROWN HALL.—Mr. A. READ
will receive next Saturday, 5 p.m.

A ASSEMBLY ROOMS, WILLIAM-STREET.

AN ASSEMBLY THIS EVENING, at 8.

A Testimonial will be presented to Mrs. Charles Head during the evening.

W. C. COLEMAN, Sec.

HUNTER RIVER NEW STEAM NAVIGATION
COMPANY.

NOTICE is hereby given that the sixty-first Half-yearly General
MEETING will be held at the New Temperance Hall, Pitt-street, on
TUESDAY, the 7th of May, 1883, Old Colombo-street, Sydney.

NORTH SHORE.—Oceans C. C. Discreased Saturday
next. JOHN LEE, Jun., Arthur-street, North Shore.

SURRY UNITED.—1st and 2nd Divisions disengaged Saturday,
with grounds, 15, Bridge-street.

VICTORIA C.C. with Grounds disengaged Saturday next.

A. H. Green, Surveyor, South Sydney.

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REFFERING to the notice of the Directors for the half-year ended
December 31, 1882, to elect two Auditors, and to transact any
other business that may be brought before the meeting, in confor-

mation with the Notice of Settlement.

Order of the Board.

J. W. LYF, Acting-Manager.

Morpeth, 5th February, 1883.

HUNTER RIVER NEW STEAM NAVIGATION
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NOTICE is hereby given that the sixtieth Half-yearly General
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charge of the lands, there were established two modes of selling them, one of which was by public auction, as in America. This money was obtained to be spent on wharfs, and other improvements necessary for the country, and land was distributed amongst those best able to deal with it. There was also a provision allowing people to purchase leaseholds. He thought this was a good mode of bargaining away the land. It brought about the development of the resources of the country, it found employment for a large number of working people who were entitled to have a benefit out of the sale of land, and it gave the country a large revenue from the sale of land. These modes he found existing, and he left them existing, and what he battled for within those walls was to obtain for the people the right of purchasing, on the principle of conditional arrangements and of deferred payment, land in small quantities for homesteads. Before this principle could be obtained the House was dissolved time after time, and the Upper House was swamped. Some of these gentlemen who thought deferred payments were wrong, also thought it a proper course to sweep away the old auction system, and to have nothing but conditional purchases and deferred payments. He himself was never an advocate for auction sales. It was never necessary, for they were established before his time, and with regard to improvement purchases, he could say the same thing; but more than any one he battled for the right of the people to make improvements on the land on the principle of conditional occupation and deferred payments. Now, he found this to be the only mode of selling land, and he had no quarrel with it, but at the same time it might possibly be unwise to entirely put a stop to auction sales, because a few protectionists in Sydney had put pressure on the Government to do it. In the great country—America—which was their guide in land legislation, this had not been done, and there the acreage sold was increasing yearly, and averaged ten millions a year. It might be that some of the Johnny-comes-yesterdays knew more about the best way of dealing with waste lands than did America, Canada, or other countries that had dealt with the subject for hundreds of years. It was worthy of consideration whether it was wise or not in this way to sweep away a large source of revenue which was obtained from the highest bidders for their lands. Practically this Government had abolished auction sales. Nothing like what they had done was done in America, Canada, or any of the Australias, or here until the protectionist league put pressure on the Government. They heard from the head of the Government and other Ministers tremendous denunciations against dumyism and all manner of rascality, which they alleged—he did not think truly—sprang up under the conditional sale principle. More than this, he was of opinion that they did not believe such things existed, for they had made provision for the sale of a greater acreage than they ever had before. They struck a blow at auction sales, yet at the same time they left conditional purchases as they were, and made no provision for annihilating the dumyism and blackmailing which they alleged existed. At the second reading of the last Land Bill a remarkable circumstance transpired. Then, up to the last moment, eight or ten gentlemen, who made a difference of 20 in the division, deceived the previous Government. However, they were paying for it now. Well, the money derived from these auction sales was so polluted and so injurious that the Government in a panic struck it off at once. That might be all very well if they did not provide for carrying themselves on, for he did not know how many years, by the money which was retained in the Treasury, and which sprang from these very auction sales. (Hear, hear.) He should like the very able gentleman who sat opposite to explain how it was that, if it was wrong for them to allow auction sales to go on, it was right for them to take the accumulation from auction sales, and attempt to carry on the Government with the—in their view—degraded money which the late Government left behind as an accumulated fund. He heard the Treasurer say that that was not so, and that he was not going to leave this £1,000,000 surplus money where it was, but lend it to the loan fund; and yet he was going to raise a new loan for the purpose of recouping this money and putting it back into its proper channel. He should have thought this money was so bad and came from such a vile source that he would have been glad to leave it where it was—namely, lent to the loan fund and not put his hands on money so polluted. No one could pretend that the law was ever intended to allow the complete stoppage of these sales. The law said the Government might do so, but it was not to be dealt with in an improper manner. The power given was meant to enable the sale of any particular lots to be withheld, and certainly not to sustain the Government to put a stop to auction sales altogether. The Treasurer was good enough and polite enough to suggest that his (Sir John Robertson's) brain was going with regard to this land question. Certainly that was a very politic way of getting rid of one who had been for a long time engaged in dealing with this question, and who at any rate to the best of his ability had endeavoured in as faithful a way as any man in the country to serve the country. The hon. gentleman accused him of saying that the loss of the Land bill had a very great tendency to create a tightness in the money market. And why should it not be so? He knew, and the Treasurer and every other hon. gentleman knew who understood everything about our commercial and financial position, that the holders of pastoral lands under the Crown had vast territories which were utterly waterless and useless without large expenditure. The hon. gentleman knew that vast quantities of this territory were absolutely useless without water and without a large expenditure, and he knew, or ought to know, that this was the first season for the last 10 or 15 years that effective water works could be carried on in the back inland plains, because it was the first year there had been any surface water to enable the works to be carried on. Dams have had to be made, and will again have to be made. To-day there was water on the land, but what had happened? Companies that had undertaken to lend money at 6 per cent. for the permanent improvement of these lands had put a complete stoppage upon any further advances except in regard to contracts absolutely entered upon. Would the hon. member tell him that this would not prevent these companies drawing upon England for more money? Would it not have a tendency to tighten the money market here? Beyond question it would, whatever the hon. member might say to the contrary; and when he ventured to suggest that this was the case, the hon. Treasurer said that his brain was giving way. He heard the hon. gentleman put forth a proposition which he (Sir John Robertson) thought was absurd in the extreme, but he did not say the hon. gentleman was going mad. He should read to the House an extract from an address delivered in this chamber by one of the most accomplished financiers they had ever had in the colony. He alluded to Mr. Stuart. He could read many pages of Mr. Stuart's financial statement when he was a colleague of his, but he would content himself with confining himself to a certain portion as an answer to the views put forward by the hon. Treasurer. He would read every word about the land question, and although it might be tiresome to hon. members, it was well worth hearing. Mr. Stuart in that speech described exactly the same set of circumstances in every regard as Mr. Watson did, the only difference being in the alteration of a few details. He would not have troubled the House with any extract from that speech were it not for the way in which he had been attacked by the hon. the Treasurer.

Mr. DIBBES desired to make a personal explanation. He had before him in *Harvard* an account of what he said in regard to the land question, and the money market. In the course of his financial statement he referred to the fact that never in his commercial experience was money for trading purposes so scarce as at present. The hon. gentleman interjected, "How was it before the Land bill was thrown out?" It was all right then." (He (Mr. Dibbs) went on to say that the hon. gentleman had a craze in his head. He went on to think that the tightness of the money market arises from the fact that the Land bill was lost on the second reading." It was upon that that he referred to the hon. gentleman's craze.

Sir JOHN ROBERTSON said the hon. gentleman had exhibited his incapacity even in making this explanation. The hon. gentleman said he was crazy; or, in other words, incompetent to deal with a question of this kind. It was because of that that he considered himself justified in reading this extract from the speech delivered by one of the greatest financiers in the country. He hoped his hon. friend Mr. Dibbs would not be angry with what he had said, and he hoped the hon. gentleman would listen to what he was about to read. This is what Mr. Stuart said when he was Colonial Treasurer:—"Before entering in detail upon the accounts specifically connected with the years 1876 and 1877, I trust that the committee will bear with me while I take a somewhat wider review of the general position of the finances of the colony, even at the risk of detaining the committee for some time. . . . While seeing before us a future of immense wealth still to be derived from our valuable Crown lands, I am deeply impressed that that wealth can only become ours by a wise administration of that which is being realised, and by a constant watchfulness against undue expenditure of a needless and unproductive character, while we hesitate not to open the hand with a ready liberality whenever a beneficial result may be expected to flow from such a course. I have therefore felt not only that it was my duty, but that this committee had a right to expect of me that, in laying these matters before you, I should not confine my remarks to the present year, but should endeavour to take a comprehensive review of the whole situation. . . . I regard the national income (and here I do not use the word income in the restricted sense of annual profit, but as comprising the whole of the money which annually finds its way into the Treasury for the public benefit) as being derived from several entirely distinct sources, and in this view it is to be regretted that the necessary adherence to our Constitution Act compels us to call it all by the generic name of "Consolidated Revenue," in place of apportioning it under its distinct heads, to each of which might have been allotted its specific expenditure. . . . I purpose now so to analyse the accounts as to bring the main features into such prominence as will enable all who choose to examine for themselves, to see them cleared of much of what appears to many persons the mystification which now surrounds them. With this view I would divide the revenue into two main divisions or heads, viz.—(1) The revenue proper, or ordinary income, derived from—(1.) Taxation, which embraces—(a.) Customs and other taxation of an indirect character. (b.) Stamps, licences, and other taxation of direct character. (2.) Charges for services performed, which embraces receipts from—(a.) Railways. (b.) Postage, telegraphs, pilotage, fees of office, &c. (3) The annual return from, or use of, the great landed estate of the nation; and this I would also subdivide into—(a.) Rental, grass rights, and mining occupation of the unalienated estate. (b.) Interest on credit portions of conditional purchases, which really is only another form of grass rights." (2.) Charges for services performed, which embraces receipts from—(a.) Railways. (b.) Postage, telegraphs, pilotage, fees of office, &c. (3) The annual return from, or use of, the great landed estate of the nation; and this I would also subdivide into—(a.) Rental, grass rights, and mining occupation of the unalienated estate. (b.) Interest on credit portions of conditional purchases, which really is only another form of grass rights."

strictly speaking, not revenue at all, but the realisation of part of the national capital. To have a clear understanding of this head, it is requisite to subdivide it thus:—Sales of land made for cash, in which the operation is once completed. (6.) Sales for a cash deposit with credit, or on unstated, for the remainder, but subject to usual payment of interest, whether alone, as under the Act of 1801, or amalgamated with the principal, as under the Amendment Act of 1875. But even this analysis, although in the main representing one of the grand divisions of our annual revenue, requires some modification before it can be regarded as a settlement of the position, otherwise we would be led to a conclusion from which the error would not have been entirely eliminated, and which therefore would not be safe or trustworthy guide for a comprehensive summary of the financial condition of the colony. I therefore call upon the committee to follow the considerations with regard to land sales:—We have been continuously selling since the introduction of responsible government, and long anterior thereto, to the present time. Up to the year of 1873 these land sales averaged about a quarter of a million annually, although liable to considerable fluctuation; commencing in 1856 with £215,000, receding in 1864 to a year of general depression, to £106,000, recovering in 1869 to £75,000, up in 1872 reaching £330,000. Since then a rapid development of land sales has taken place amounting in 1873 to £774,000, 1874 to £1,04,000, 1875 to £1,627,000, 1876 to £256,000. This rapid increase in the sales of land demands our most grave attention; for it is evident to the best tyre in finance that if the whole of this money were absorbed in the ordinary expenditure of the country we should sooner or later arrive at the miserable condition of a man who, having inherited a noble patrimony, regulated his expenditure on so extravagant a scale as not only to absorb the annual income of his estate, but to necessitate his parting with his ancestral domain, and when reduced to a state of beggary, looking for compensation, found only condemnation for folly. On the other hand, those who contend that the whole of the realisations should go in reduction of national debt, or be invested in sinking fund, or in productive works, while not erring so widely as the others, should in my opinion be throwing too heavy a burden on the next generation for the benefit of the future. In this, as in many other things, it appears to me that the *via media* between these extreme views affords the most just solution to the question, and that it is necessary to make certain fair reasonable deductions from the gross amounts received, then, having found what the surplus from these extra sales really is, to see how it has been spent, and how in pursuing such course of expenditure, a departure has been made from those wise axioms which govern the science of political economy. And first, as I once observed when I had an opportunity of speaking on the finances of the colony, we are justified in deducting from the annual land sales an amount equivalent to the average sales which have been placed over since the commencement of responsible government, and which have been actually in operation for a long course of years, were foreseen and provided for in the Constitution Act, and were thereby intended to be directed to form part of the general or consolidated revenue of the colony. Such sales we have seen averaged nearly a quarter of a million annually between the years 1856 and 1873; but in applying them to subsequent years, it is more in accordance with the nature of our inquiry that we ascertain what proportion these sales bear to the population. We may divide the period into two intervals of nine years each. For the first nine years the population averaged 346,315, and the sales £205,500, or about 12s. per head per annum; in the second nine years the population averaged 453,450, and land sales £320,000, or 12s. 4d. per head; applying therefore a medium rate (say 12s. 4d.) to the population of 1872, 1873, and 1874, we get the following result as that which we may call the normal amount of land sales—such sales would have in the ordinary course without having such extraordinary sales become merged in the ordinary revenue by note or comment, and strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution Act, viz.:—1874, population 453,781, at rate of 12s. 4d. per head gives a land sale of 55,000; 1875, population 506,000, at rate of 12s. 6d. gives a land sale of £379,000; 1876, population 550,000, at rate of 12s. 6d. per head gives a land sale of £250,000; 1877, population (probably) 650,000, at rate of 12s. 6d. per head gives a land sale of £406,250—amounts which we might naturally expect would have been realised if there had been no extraordinary demand for land, which, without question or comment, would have passed consolidated revenue fund, and have been absorbed in ordinary expenditure. In arriving, therefore, at a conclusion as to the surplus or excess of land sales during these three years, we must deduct from the net sales the above as the ordinary measure of sales; nor is there anything unreasonable in this, it is just about equal to the annual amount spent in opening up the country by preliminary surveying, pushing on roads and bridges, and other means of communication, of which not only we but those who succeed us will reap the benefit. It is unnecessary to pursue the inquiry into the actual amounts thus expended, but they will be found fully detailed to this portion of the land sales. I desire not to be misunderstood with regard to this 12s. 6d. rate. I do not mean to say that such rate is to be always maintained,—merely say that as yet nothing has occurred to render it necessary or desirable to make a rate different from that which has obtained for twenty years and more. We can easily understand that a sudden development of our population might render it necessary to review this rate, but as yet I do not see that any such contingency has arisen; it may become a question for the future whether a sum instead of a population proportionate sum be taken as the representative of the normal land sale of the year. Further elucidation of the subject, I would say that it lies upon the public estate in much the same light as that in which a private individual; to a great extent the same laws are applicable to its governance, and when these laws are applied corresponding results will be produced therefrom.

In one respect, and that a very important one, however, the parallel fails. The vendor of a private estate has to have any further interest in or obligation in respect of the property which he has alienated; not so the Government; it has still duties to perform in connection with the unalienated land, and it has still an income to be derived from it indirect it may be, but not the less positive, inasmuch as increased population furnishes the most thoroughly representative return that can be devised—a return which marches onward in an endless series of progression, owing to its capacity for taxation, a capacity which it possesses in proportion to the attractiveness and productiveness of the country, to the facility of transport by good roads or other means of communication, as well as by post, telegraph, and other facilities, which, as the blessings attendant in the train of taxation, follow a people contented, prosperous, and free; before we can ascertain the actual proceeds of the land sales, we must deduct the increased expenditure in the Public Department, rendered necessary by these very sales, without which the money we have obtained from the property could not have been realised. I find that in connection with the year 1871 (and I have taken that year because it was the last that was wholly undisturbed by the increasing demand for surveys, which began to set in about the end of 1872) the expenditure of the Department has year by year increased as the sales have progressed, until in the year 1875 that increase stands at the large sum of £212,000. Of chief item of increase is in the surveying of the land, of the roads thereto, which either precede or follow sales, and which amounts to no less a sum than £151,000, while the greater part of the remaining increase arises from commission on the larger sales, and from the necessary expense of examining into the fulfilment of conditions and valuation of improvements. These latter expenses will to some degree be met, however, by forfeitures by reason of the non-fulfilment of conditions, which though a small formed part of the money received, do not add to the acreage of land alienated. In applying these principles I am unfortunately not obliged to go back many years in my calculation, for the honorable member for Newcastle (Mr. Lloyd) submitted a tabular statement, made up to the end of 1873, showing what, in his opinion, was the position of the land revenue of that date in reference to the entire value of the colony. That honorable gentleman made out that, in his opinion, the land revenue, embracing the period from the year 1850 to the end of 1873, was in debt to the general revenue of the colony in the sum of £110,840. While I am thus indebted to my honorable friend opposite for valuable aid which his compilation has afforded me, I regret that I am unable to agree with him in the result at which he has arrived. I think that, in endeavouring to separate two funds, he has charged against the land revenue expenses of expenditure which were a fair charge against the ordinary revenue; of course the effect of that would be to put the land fund into debt to the general revenue. I am going to weary you with the details of these amounts.

I think the honorable gentleman misconceived the nature of the inquiry in this respect, as he included in the statement which he submitted to the House the annual value of the public lands as well as the proceeds of sales during the period embraced in the return. His statement, therefore, not only shows what was the amount of our land sales, but the annual revenue derived from the land or grass rights. I think, however, that the amount of grass rental is as fair an item of annual income as any other item of our ordinary revenue. It is not a part never of the corpus of the estate; it is only that which is given off from it which we have a right to use. I look on the land as an endowment given to us by a paternal government when it was considered we could walk alone, and have therefore a perfect right to use for ordinary expenditure the entire annual yield of that endowment—I care not by what name it is called, whether grass right, rental, or rest upon it as it is called, whatever grass right, rental, or land sales revenue upon the permanent improvement of the country. I will give a slight illustration: A part of the water for removed—say out westward—would acquire value if roads and bridges were made through it, it may be an exceedingly valuable piece of land—of great utility, with great powers of production—but by its position cut off in every possible way from communication with the rest of the country, or it may be of such a nature, although it may grow magnificent herbage, still cattle of that could not be kept there for want of water. In such case, if the Government of the day were to spend money in making roads to and through the land and constructing bridges or in making wells or tanks for holding stock with water, then I say the Government should have a perfect right to sell a portion of that land and land sales revenue upon the permanent improvement of the country.

such portion of our land sales as are
and requisite for carrying out works of a char-
acter which render the country more habitable, and
which open up a larger area of land more suitable for settle-
ment. These are the very arguments which were so ably
put forward by the author of the Wakefield system. I am not so ably
as to say that the merits or demerits of that system now; although it
have had its weak points it had this merit; although it
had appreciated the principle that wherever you take a
sum of waste land and expend money to make it more
habitable, you have a right to charge that land in some way
with the expense. According to this theory a sum
or charge may be put upon the land in order to recoup the expense of making roads,
bridges, and other improvements through it. That
of Mr. Wakefield's system showed great wisdom;
but it is that which we have a right to carry out. When
we sell our lands we have a right to put aside a portion of
proceeds, either to make roads and bridges, or to repay
the country for making them if already made. Applying
these principles to the investigation of the state-
ment of the honorable member for Newcastle, to which I
alluded, and by which he made out that at the end of
the land fund was indebted to the general revenue in
the sum of £10,000, I have come to the conclusion that if
an honorable member for Newcastle had referred his
action he would have been nearer the truth. If he had referred
us that at the end of 1873 the land fund was indebted
that amount to the general revenue he had told us that the
general revenue was indebted to the land fund, he would
have been, in my opinion, nearer the mark. Through
an interesting matter of investigation, it is not
while our now pausing to pursue that inquiry further.
The chief object in alluding to it was to obtain a starting-
point, and it is comparatively immaterial whether at that
particular date Mr. Lloyd's view of the land fund being
indebted to the general revenue is correct, or whether mine
is the exact reverse; the more accurate representation
is much, however, as we both are agreed that we had a
plus of about three-quarters of a million on one account
or the other, or in combination of both, it appears to me to be
more prudent for us to assume as the basis of our
further investigations that at the close of 1873
a million of that surplus had arisen from
sales of land, and is therefore responsible for the
debt which it may be considered that such land fund
did incur. It will, therefore, be my endeavour to trace
as nearly as I can the subsequent realisations and ex-
penditure incident to that fund for the years 1874, 1875, and
1876, with a view to ascertain the net amount brought to
accretion of the Consolidated Revenue Fund from the
realisations of the alienated portions of the national estate.
With regard to the necessarily increased expenditure in the
India Department, the following table shows, for the period
under review, the growth of that expenditure in excess of
year 1871, leaving out the items under the heads of
cavalcades, gold, and coal fields; the first having no re-
lation to the subject of investigation, and the two latter
being transferred to the Department of Mines—
a total increase of the Department above the expenditure
of 1871, £79,828—or of those which belongs to the Occupa-
tion and other branches £145,76, leaving as applicable to
sales of land £75,452, of which the increase in the sur-
plus alone represents £53,778; 1875, total increase of the
Department above the expenditure of 1871, £164,378—of
which there belongs to the Occupation and other branches £2,883, leaving as applicable to the sales of land £151,525,
of which the increase in the survey above represents
£3,322; 1876, total increase of the Department above the
expenditure of 1871, £311,823—of which there belongs to
Occupation and other branches £15,208, leaving as
applicable to the sales of land £216,615, of which the
increase in the survey alone represents £154,241.
It does not at present fall within my province to inquire
whether these expenses were all absolutely necessary, or
whether any more rigid economy might have been practicable
regard to them, or whether they are in any or what
are excessive. I have no doubt that when the adminis-
tration of land comes under discussion my honorable col-
leagues in charge of that department will be able to satisfy
us on these points. All that I need now say is that I
am not at all surprised that it should be so, for it is
exactly what one would have predicted concerning it; and
from the very nature of things, it could not
otherwise, since we have had to survey nearly
60,000 acres in 1874, against 41,000 in 1871.
It may be true that in the adjoining colonies no such
increase is shown in proportion to the lands sold, but the
explanation is simple; for instance, in Queensland, although
Government department conducts the survey, the pur-
chasers are by statute compelled to pay for it. In other
parts, the Government of Queensland charges a lower
fee per acre for the land, and compels the purchaser to
pay the cost of survey, while in this colony we charge a
higher price and include the survey, and thus it is that
there is no such apparent increase to the staff of their
department as appears in ours as a charge against the Con-
solidated Revenue. In proceeding with the analysis of the
sums derived from the sales of land, I commence with the
amount which I have thus assumed as having been realised
on 31st December, 1873, viz., £300,000, and add thereto the
land sale of 1874, £1,219,700, less than which I have
claimed as representing the equivalent of the normal
sales (£365,000) and the additional departmental expenses
of £182—total, £244,422; net land sales of 1875,
£27,613, less as before, normal sales £379,000, additional
departmental expenses £151,825—total, £430,825; net
land sales of 1876, £2,250,157, less as before, normal
sales £352,500, additional departmental expenses
£6,525—total, £258,035. Grand total, £2,834,121.
In these we find that, including the half million brought from
the sum of £3,654,424, or nearly four millions, has
been added to our Consolidated Revenue Fund during these
three years from land sales, outside the ordinary or normal
portion of revenue derived from that source for the prior
portion of the 20 years which have elapsed since the
reduction of responsible government, and as might be
seen, if we pursued the subject further, long anterior
thereto. The question arises, what have we done with this
sum of money? Have we trifled it away—and, if
so, how much of it—in the annual current expenditure of
ordinary character for keeping the State machine in
order? Or have we made a profitable use of it in
paying off our debt, or in the formation of works of
productive character? Or have we any, and how much,
still on hand available for any of these purposes?
though somewhat intricate, it is by no means impossible,
to trace out with a tolerable degree of accuracy the propor-
tion in which these objects respectively have had a share in
the absorption of this surplus, and I will now endeavour to
show how much has been allotted to each. 1. As to the debt
itself, there has been under the Superannuation Repeal Act
1873, £298,490; of Treasury Bills finally extinguished in
£3,534,000. Mr. Lloyd: Why, we paid them. Mr.
Farnell: I am now showing Mr. Farnell what the country has
done, not what any particular Government has done. It is
the country that has realised this money by land sales. I
suppose the hon. member will next claim the land
sales also; I am surprised at the remark of the hon.
member, for I am investigating what the country has done
in the money realised during the three years I have
had to do with—the years of large land sales, and I care not
who held office during the period. Neither the one Govern-
ment nor the other is entitled to the credit of them. These
land sales were the result of circumstances far beyond
the mere question of holding office. They are
indications of the progress of events in which the colony
participated, and still continue to participate, irre-
spective altogether of the Government in power, now or
formerly. Well, sir, I was saying that there were
Treasury bills paid off in 1871 amounting to £334,600;
debentures under the Act 29 Victoria paid off in 1875
in the amount of £51,500; old debentures under various
acts in 1876 £735,000, and sundry small purchases of
debentures under a special Act in connection with the
subject that formed matter for discussion some
years ago—I mean the Mudgee-road—amounting
£90,000. Then there have been three years' redemp-
tion of debentures under the Railway Loan Act, payable by
annual drawings of £20,000, amounting to £60,000. Thus
an expenditure of £1,342,800, and I don't mean by we
particular Government of which I am an individual
member—but we—the country—have during those years
done the best use of our money—a use which no
one can say is trifling it away. It is true that
first item, £354,000, never existed as a debt
as a debt. The Act authorised the required amount to be
paid by loan, but my predecessor, Mr. Lloyd, finding him-
self with a growing Treasury, very wisely determined
to oblige at once, and thus obviate the necessity for
issuing debentures or otherwise borrowing the money. The
Treasury bills constituted a floating debt which was also, I
think, wisely constituted out of the growing revenue accruing
on a sale of land. It must be noted, however, that
when I have assumed the balance of land sales on 31st
December, 1873, to have been £500,000, the total balance
£25,374, so that the difference, viz., £225,574, although
being part of what might be called the ordinary revenue,
equally liable to be paid for payment of the then existing
debt, such as Treasury bills, and falls therefore to be
deducted from the total amount of debt paid off, which leaves
£77,226 as the proportion paid out of land sales. The
next thing that we have done with our money is
that we have postponed the borrowing of certain
sums for purposes authorised under various Acts,
and at the same time the works themselves have
been carried out and paid for to a considerable extent,
though they have not yet entirely exhausted such
sums. We have thus advanced to the following loan
acts:—38 Victoria, No. 2, £600,000; 39 Victoria, No.
£125,000; 40 Victoria, No. 12, £50,000—in all,
£200,000. If at any time the House should determine to
make a permanent investment or appropriation of these
sums, the above amount would be recouped by the
issue of the debentures which have been authorised.
There is, however, a very convenient way of tempor-
arily using our funds, as it saves interest and
moves our credit by showing our power of abstaining
from borrowing large sums for considerable periods,
when we have large cash balances on deposit with our
bankers, or otherwise invested, amounting to no less a sum
than £2,938,069. There is no item in our finances more
constantly misunderstood and misrepresented than this
cash balance; the very possession of it has been by
some deemed almost criminal, or at least highly
suspicious. Now, even were it all surplus revenue
proceeds of land sales, I would fail to look
upon it as injurious. On the contrary, a small
portion of this money has sprung from taxation, I con-
sider that next to having no debt at all, it would be a most
admirable thing to have so large a sum of money in
treasury, and invested for the purpose of paying off
a portion of the debt, or ready to stave off the
necessity for further borrowing, or to be appropriated
to the carrying out of public works of a national

bring out the works authorised. Of course it may not be wise to borrow these moneys so long before they are required, but former Governments and Parliaments have acted for what appeared then to be for the best, no one could have foreseen the wonderful extent and variety of the increased demand for land; but once having made it, there can be neither sin nor harm in doing it at interest pending its being required; on the contrary, it would be very injudicious as well as highly improper were we either to spend these moneys on other objects or wrap them in a napkin productively. Then, again, £283,505 belongs to various funds, which are merely held by the State in safe custody, and which are in effect precisely the same thing as the deposits in a bank. They may be used freely enough to bring in an annual income or interest, but they ought not to be used for any other purpose, and before they form a proper though in some degree permanent fund for loan to, or deposit with, the banks of the country. Again, there are the appropriations which are as unspent, or which are in the course of being spent, as the various works or services for which they were voted—such as roads, schools, or public works, for which they were voted completion, and which cannot be used for any other purpose. These are for 1874, £7,633; 5, £67,761; 1876, £48,879; supplementary, £6,276,700; debentures not yet presented, £6,000; total, £61,000. Reducing these three sums, which together make £2,406,317, from the total cash balance of £2,928,081, and thus leave £518,917 of that cash balance belongs to surplus proceeds of land sales. Tabulating the sums as accounted for we find that the net proceeds of the land sales realised during these three years, viz., £3,859,574, we have paid off debts to the amount of £1,077,226, we have advanced to loan account and thus deferred borrowing, £5,000; we have in the banks, as part of the cash reserve, £348,917; total, £2,751,443, leaving still to be accounted for £1,115,431. It becomes now our duty to estimate whether any and how much of that sum has been expended in works of a character for which, without large land sales, we must have borrowed, and which, owing out the practice of former years, and of other countries, we would have been justified in borrowing. The owing are the heads of expenditure to which we naturally turn for some explanation:—1. Roads and Bridges; 2. Public Works and Buildings; 3. Public Instruction; 4. Immigration. I take again as my unit, standard of expenditure, the year 1871, in comparison with which I find the expenditure of the three last years to have been as follows:—Roads and Bridges: 1871, population, 519,182; expenditure, £164,696; 1874, population, 584,278; expenditure, £303,411; relative expenditure to population would have been, £1,057,278; excess of actual expenditure over such relative rate, £38,135; 1875, population, 606,652; expenditure, £366,002; relative expenditure to population would have been, £1,202,373; excess of actual expenditure over such relative rate, £47,381; 1876, population, 611,429; relative expenditure to population would have been, £1,242,373; excess of actual expenditure over such relative rate, £243,672; total excess of actual expenditure over such relative rate, £215,497. 2. Public Works and Buildings: 1871, expenditure, £49,100; 1874, expenditure, £10,100; 1875, expenditure, £15,757; 1876, expenditure, £10,722; relative expenditure to population would have been, £109,392. It is clear that if no account had been taken of the ordinary revenue, the excess of actual expenditure over such relative rate, £203,633, Public Instruction: 1871, expenditure, £110,000; 1874, expenditure, £121,000; relative expenditure to population would have been, £135,752; excess of actual expenditure over such relative rate, £15,752; 1875, expenditure, £147,071; 1876, expenditure, £147,071; relative expenditure to population would have been, £149,292; excess of actual expenditure over such relative rate, £1,218,750; relative expenditure to population would have been £183,039; excess of actual expenditure over such relative rate, £6,945,914. 3. Immigration: 1871, £57,000; total £1,055,781; 1874, £10,000; 1875, £10,000; 1876, £10,000; total £30,000. It is clear that if no account had been taken of the ordinary revenue, the excess of actual expenditure under these four heads would naturally have been paid out of the proceeds of the land sales, and it is equally clear that the greater portion of it has been, and that had we not had these large land sales we should not have imposed an annual taxation upon ourselves for the payment of these services, but would either left them undone or would have raised the money by some means to bring these items more in accord with the general progress of the ordinary revenue; (excess of actual expenditure over such ordinary revenue, £491,323; total excess of actual expenditure over such relative rate, £203,633). Public Instruction: 1871, £10,000; 1874, £10,000; 1875, £10,000; 1876, £10,000—showing that we have spent, in the second period, £60,000—on account of the third and fourth years more than during the first under these four heads. The gross land sales during these two periods were—first three years, £1,370,532; and three years, £1,836,525. The expenditure under the four heads was:—Roads and Bridges: First three years, £5,711; second three years, £1,050,443; excess during second period, £1,044,702. Public Works: First three years, £220,000; second three years, £270,288; excess during second period, £65,188. Public Instruction: First three years, £10,000; second three years, £550,000; excess during second period, £210,000. Immigration: Excess during second period, £60,000—showing that we have spent, in the second period, £370,000 on account of the third and fourth years more than during the first under these four heads. Public instruction in your list is, I may add,—as well as roads, bridges, public works, and even immigration, being fair subjects for taxation, and that the burden of them may be in some measure cast up in the future; but surely, if we are bound to protect our children, we are bound to do so out of current revenue, and not out of either loans or land sales? This would be perfectly true if the expenditure represented only the cost of the children of the present generation; but, that it includes also the purchase of sites, and the cost of building teachers' dwellings and schoolhouses in which our children have not in many cases as yet been born, but in which both they and the children of yet-born generations may be taught for many years to come, it is only reasonable that, to the extent, at least, of the cost of these buildings, sites, &c., other future generations should be burdened by loan, or that the cost of such buildings should be defrayed from that land fund which is the common heritage of all. Without further occupying the time and patience of the Committee, I claim to have conclusively shown that ordinary expenditure, other than such extra expenditure as has been rendered necessary to obtain or retain the very safety themselves of these three years, has not materially encroached upon them, except to the same average extent that it has ever done since the introduction of responsible Government, or, as I have said, for a period long anterior thereto. If it be conceded that even to this extent we have no right to intrude expenditure, but that we ought to increase our taxation implies it, then it seems to me that there is no halting point on which such theorists can stop, short of imposing taxation to cover the whole amount of land sale from £1 to £737, or about four and a half millions; for assuredly it is wrong—as wrong as to call for a refund from fresh taxation—for us to use for ordinary expenditure £279,000 of land sales in 1875, it must have been equally wrong to use the same sum of £252,000 in 1876, or of £75,000 in 1876, and for these sums, and all similarly appropriated every year, restitution should be made; and I think that even those who are loudest in their denunciations against the Government for their conduct in spending the one, will not be found bold enough to advocate the notion to which I have thus ineffectually shown that their neighbour must lead them. I think that members of the Committee who have followed the argument which I have sketched, however feebly, to place before them, will be convinced how unjust it is to this great colony, how unnecessarily detrimental to its good credit, persons, without bestowing due care on the analysis of the accounts of our income and expenditure, to be persistently crying out that we are recklessly spending for our colony daily wants the proceeds of our national estate, when we are thus, they say, wantonly casting to the winds, if they will but honestly investigate—I mean by persistently, without endeavouring to force the proof of a foregone conclusion by levelling out or misplacing certain terms in the equation—they must see that the whole of the excess of land sales have been used—1. For the extra expenditure necessarily connected therewith, and which would gradually appear from our Estimates if the land sales themselves did not disappear. 2. For payment of our debts; for repaying the necessity for contracting new debt; for works of utility and public character, for which we have invariably been obliged to borrow. £100,000 of debentures have been paid off; for new roads, £23,672 has been spent in excess of previous years; for public works, £401,323; for school buildings, £945; and for immigration, £50,602; which, together with a balance from 1875 of £29,602, make a total of £14,382; thus showing a sum within £49,000 of the amount got from the land sales of that particular year. Therefore, again, we find that the accounts of the year 1876 show that the proceeds of our large land sales have been spent in paying off our debts, or on works of public utility for opening up the vast resources of the country. To show that the works were of a permanent character, have jotted down a few of them, and it will be seen that they are works which should not be met of the ordinary revenue. For the navigation of the Murray River, £10,000; south dyke at Clarence River, £10,000; Trial Bay, Harbour of Refuge, £10,000; Dungaree Blackwater Swamp, £3000; steam dredge, Tweed River, £3000; Darling River improvements, £10,000; Murray River improvements, £5000; Rushcutter Bay, re-shoring 23 acres, £3000; Darling Harbour, £3000. There are other minor works on the Estimates Harbours and Rivers Navigation, amounting to £6000. Then there is a sum of £12,000 for bridges over the Shoalhaven River; bridges at Goulburn, £10,000; Murrumbidgee, £15,000; Mungindi Goondiwindi, £5000; Bundarra, £2000; Gostwyck, £1000.

the works that are being constructed. The expenditure of many of them will necessarily be spread over a period of years, and they are all of a character which in former years would have demanded that they should be paid from money borrowed by loan. We are, however, fortunately in this position: we no longer require to carry out these works by loan, for they can now with propriety be defrayed, as Mr. Stuart maintained in a most elaborate and careful speech, such a one as he believed no other man in that Chamber could prepare, laying it clearly before the House. In his opinion, the action of the Government which I preceded him had been the correct one, and that course of action was similar to that which the late Government were endeavouring to carry out in the financial statement made by Mr. Watson a short time ago. Why was this change of opinion? He would like some one to answer it extract from Mr. Stuart's speech. He quite agreed with the hon. the Treasurer in stating that our local policy and land policy should go hand in hand. He could not see why it was that they had not been informed of the cause of the change which had been made. Not one word had been said from any Minister as to why auction sales had, contrary to the spirit of the law, been put a stop to. (Hear, hear.) A good deal had been said about free-selection factors, and about dumymen, and many other kinds of legislation, but there was not a word against auction sales. The Treasurer was about to overturn all that they had been doing the last quarter of a century. The late Government had left the country in a state of permanent prosperity. It was not only in a state of permanent prosperity, but it was in a more prosperous condition than any other country in the world. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. W. CLARKE said that it appeared to him that the whole bent of the speech of the hon. gentleman was to lay upon the present Government that their policy was of a protectionist character, and that in submitting their financial policy they were led by the noses by the gentleman who delivered an election speech in favour of the return of Mr. Copeland, and as an argument that the Government were influenced by the protectionists, he cited the fact that the Government had abolished sales by auction. Well, it was no wonder that the present Administration had struck off sales by auction as a leading part of their policy. The whole colony had, as was shown by the result of the general election, clamoured for the cessation of sales by auction; and the Ministry would be untrue to their pledge if they did not at once put a stop to the sale of land by public auction. (Hear, hear.) He thought that a majority of the members of that House would come to the conclusion that the Ministry had acted properly in abolishing sales by auction. The late Government had missed a golden opportunity in not submitting a new fiscal policy. When Mr. Burns' speech was read down it would be found that the only thing he called it was an item for £20,000 for Dublin, on which the late Government was responsible for, even, as to his objection about the revenue derivable from school fees, the motion which Mr. Burns had referred to could not have been passed if the word "forthwith" had been struck out. The banks at the present time had only absorbed all their available money, but had brought £5,000,000, which had been invested. The tightness in the money market was due to over-importation. The colony had been inundated with goods, and the difficulty had been to dispose of them, and to send the money home to England. Then there was a deficiency in the wool clip, which sent a loss to the country of £2,000,000 sterling. (Hear, hear.) He thought that the present tightness of the market was due to the wholesale alienation of lands which had been bought by monetary institutions. Sir John Robertson taunted the Treasurer with his proposal to borrow £3,000,000, he showed his utter ignorance of what was being talked about, because it was Sir Robertson's Government that had anticipated that £3,000,000 by drawing upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund to advance to the General Loans Account. (Hear, hear.) It was because of the facilities which had been given by the banking institutions to people to acquire considerable tracts of freehold lands in the country that to a very great extent the present scarcity of money was due, and who were the sufferers by that system of buying land wholesale? Why, the mercantile portion of the community, mercantile advances were restricted, and what was worse, they immediately discounted paper at 7, 8, and 9 per cent., as found by the Treasurer's statement that he had deposited several banks nearly a million sterling, and what was the rate of interest he got? Why, 4 per cent., while the banks were paying 6 per cent. on fixed deposits. He had just been informed by the Treasurer that the reason why the Government did not get a higher rate of interest was because the House had limited the amount to 4 per cent. He did not believe in the bank's having State money 4 per cent, and their charging merchants 10 per cent. He believed that the present Treasurer would negotiate a loan for recouping the Loan Fund the money taken from the

To his mind this would be a wise course. The present dearth of money was mainly due to the operations of various banks in securing large freeholds in the colony. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Burns said that the recent indemnity Bill was not required, but, for his own part, he hoped the House would never to any Government surrender the guardianship of the public money. Mr. Buchanan seemed to think that refunds from the Post Office, the railways, and the Lands did not comprise revenue. How the hon. gentleman arrived at such a conclusion he did not know. They were revenue to all intents and purposes, and would like to see them largely increased. Also the hon. gentleman seemed to forget the revenue they received from interest on conditional purchase, balances, and from rents of squatters' runs. If the present Government had given up a source of revenue by abolishing auction sales, they could not recoup themselves by obtaining for squatters' runs increased rentals which might be estimated to amount to £1,500,000. As to the Land Act, he hoped it would be amended, for it affected the industrial more than the wealthy classes. It fell particularly hard on the people who invested their earnings in building estates, and did not touch those who deposited money in banks, and it contained anomalies and created anomalies which ought to be removed. Mr. Buchanan had referred to manufacturers of clothing employing large numbers of persons in Melbourne. From recent accounts, did they not show that the earnings of these persons were very small in the work they performed, and that the persons themselves were down to starvation point? It was also a fact which ought to be known, that two or four manufacturers who were at present in Melbourne had taken a large premises in Sydney, and without question were going to carry on business in them. (Hear, hear.) In a city like this it only required British pluck and capital combined, and there could be no doubt about the success. Hon. members had been struck with the growing increases in their yearly expenditures. How were these to be accounted for? In connection with several departments there were for increases in salaries, and assistance in advance of £183,000. Of this a large proportion was for the salaries of school teachers. (Hear, hear.) He failed to understand why a certain portion of the community and not others had to pay license fees. In all, they collected £116,750 for license fees. He did not see why factors and merchants should not pay license fees. No matter what the merchant had to pay in the shape of stamp duty, he was left comparatively free, while others had to pay license fees. He commended this fact to the notice of the Treasurer when he recast his financial policy. In regard to the increase in the consumption of intoxicating liquors, he asked whether to that fact was due the large increase in the expenditure for the support of the persons who had lost their reason. There was also an increase in the Post Office expenditure over an income of £23,000. He thought the Post Office ought to be made self-supporting. In regard to the railways, about the wonderful success which they had heard so much, he found that the expenses amounted to £1,124,000; while out of that they had in salaries alone £1,127,383. He did not desire to say anything against the management of the railways, but there were anomalies in administration which he thought should be removed. In framing their list of charges he thought they favoured the Sydney merchants at the expense of the country merchants. He was glad to find that the railroads were returning over 5 per cent. upon the capital invested, and the Treasurer referred to the fact that the percentage was greater than that received on the American railways, but would, however, point out that in America the railway companies conveyed wheat at a far lower rate than we did, and that was another matter which deserved consideration in the interests of country producers. He found, in referring to charitable institutions, that a sum of £104,000 was proposed, and there was a special appropriation of £20,000 for the Sydney Hospital, which had at the present time a large amount of money to its credit on fixed deposit in the bank. The same might be said of the Benevolent Asylum, and he wished to know when this kind of expenditure was to end. He also objected to the amount granted to the corporation. The late Government had promised to place a sum of money on the Estimate for technical education in the country districts for the establishment of model farms, and saw that there was a sum of £5000 for agricultural fairs held throughout the country, and he thought this an admirable item of expenditure. He objected to the item of £10,000 for the Glebe Island abattoirs, and hoped that new abattoirs would be erected elsewhere upon the most modern approved principles. He congratulated the Colonial Treasurer on the admirable financial statement which he had made.

Mr. STUART said he should not have risen in this debate under ordinary circumstances, because he considered the Colonial Treasurer was quite sufficient to speak on behalf of the Government, and that gentleman was able to hold his own. But the hon. gentleman opposite had referred the committee to some remarks which he made there some years ago, and brought forward views which were expressed by him, on which he thought it necessary to say a few words. He was sure that the views which he put forward at that time were thoroughly sound in every respect with regard to all that they endeavoured to illustrate, but they were not to be forced beyond that. The object he then had was to show how necessary it was that the House should have a due appreciation of the necessity of a wise course in administering the funds derived from our land sales, and in the very speech which the hon. member quoted he spoke of the necessity of that administration. It was in following out that which he then laid down that he had diverged from the path which his friend had continued to take. The hon. member's remarks had more bearing on the land debate than on once. But he agreed with his hon. friend that the two writers were so brought up together that they must be connected together. (Hear, hear.) He was not surprised that the hon. member should take up the point which he had,

Sir JOHN ROBERTSON thought the Colonial Secretary had been greatly moved from his customary mild temper in airing only his own speech read to him. Did he imagine the House was so blind and stupid that it could not perceive his meaning, and would be content with the hon. gentleman's explanation. There was no land law more restrictive and binding than the present; but when the people had completed the conditions of purchase, they could not be bound down like serfs.

The CHAIRMAN left the chair, reported progress, and adjourned to sit again on Thursday.

The House adjourned at 10.45 p.m., until 4 p.m. on Friday.

NEW NOTICES OF MOTION.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

Steam-boilers Inspection Bill; consideration in Committee of the bill of the expediency of bringing in a bill for the inspection regulation of steam-boilers employed on land, and for other purposes.

the purchases, and therefore the pimpernel at all who produce and sell. When, by any abnormal price for labour in producing whatever is needed, or of cost in conveying it to the place where it is wanted, or when there is a scanty supply of the needed article its price rises, the consumer is the sufferer. Perhaps he can protect himself by refusing to buy. He may be able, if pressed, to deny himself many things, but there are some as to which he is the victim of circumstances, and must buy, whatever the cost, or go without and die. Unfortunately for us, we have modes of living which make many things necessary which used to be deemed luxuries; and to this higher and more costly rate of living the classes so often striking for wages owe many of their difficulties.

It would be an easy task to show that strikes for fewer hours and higher wages have placed the operative classes in the position which leads them to say they cannot live at present wages. Take the coal-carriers in illustration. If they must have so much more money for their work, those who consume coal must pay for it. The miner will not get less wage, the merchant will not get less profit; it is the great body of consumers who must pay the extra charge. Now, since this great body is largely made up of operatives in other departments of life, such as carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers, and the like, these are the persons who pay the coal-heaver his higher wage. But they have their revenge, for they also strike for a higher wage, and get it. The result is, that in the end the coal-heaver's house costs him more, his food, his raiment, his scanty kit of tools—everything—costs him more; and everything costs more all round. The general issue of all-round striking for higher wages and getting them is that we are doing the same amount of work with a much larger amount of money, but no more real gain. This is the case to so great an extent that it becomes almost ridiculous sometimes. It is exactly the same thing that some men of business do. They enlarge their stock, their field of trade, their number of employees; but at the end of the year they find that they have done business at a smaller percentage of profit, and so much smaller it is, that with much more capital and labour they have made no more advantage.

Sometimes there is a temporary embarrassment, because the corps coming between producers and consumers is too large; too many persons enter trade. This gives the idea that trade is dull; bad debts are made, and insolvency follows. If all trade could be done for cash payments, this sort of thing would receive a check not possible under a system of unlimited credit. But as a rule the trading class does not suffer by a rise or fall of prices. It is only when there are too many of them that they suffer. The coal merchants in Melbourne could, if they had no contracts on hand, as easily allow their men to work only eight hours a day; and could just as well allow them to work only six as eight. All they require is to know beforehand how much it will cost them to bring coals to their depots, and how much to deliver it to the consumer; and they fix their price accordingly. So of all the rest, it mattered little to the grocers of Sydney the other day that they had to buy butter at a high price, for they were able to sell it at a price which left a profit; their customers were compelled to buy. The same argument applies all round, and comparatively no danger impends over this class by any changes in the cost of produce or in the wage for its delivery, given they have no unfulfilled contracts on hand.

A better state of things is possible only by attention to two or three obvious facts. The man who is going to work only eight hours as a producer or manufacturer, or as a middle-man, must make up his mind that he has to do the very best work and the most of it possible in that time. No one has yet said that that is a purpose of the eight-hours-system. When men worked twelve hours a day they did so at a twelve-hours stroke. The world moves faster now, and is supposed to cover the same space in a shorter time. If the eight-hours man is going to work at the old stroke, he is not worth his money. He only earned it in the longer time; he must earn it still or he robs the community, and is himself one of the victims of the plunder. The true effect of the eight-hours rule should be to cast out the inefficient workman; it should be the survival of the fittest. The man who cannot do his work in the shorter time must stand aside, or be content to take longer to do it. Probably the end of it will be that more work will be done by the "piece," as it is called. We shall come to value not a man's time but his work. Good workmen would not fear this: only inferior men would shrink from being dealt with on their merits instead of their deserts. To this may be added as another form of relief a greater supply of labour. Whatever is scarce is dear, and whatever is abundant is cheap. The laws of supply and demand cannot be broken; they are as inevitable as gravitation. But the consumer is not absolutely at the mercy of those going before him. In a thousand ways he can curtail his demand. The old fable of the belly and the mouth is at hand to teach us what to do. So long as money does not run short, the man who pays all will go on to pay; and it is just because so many of us money does not run short that we continue to smile and pay the high price of labour, and of all that labour can place on our board. But whenever a necessity comes to draw the purse-strings we shall have the power to do it to a large extent; each one must ease his own share of the suffering, and perhaps the sum of all our self-denial will be sufficient materially to remedy the public evil.

The half-yearly report of the City Surveyor throws some light upon the relative cost of maintaining metalled and paved roads. To keep George-street in a satisfactory condition under the old system required an annual outlay of £24,000 per annum, but a portion of the street having been paved with wooden blocks, that amount was last year reduced by a trifle over a fifth. Mr. Mountain concludes that if the whole of the street were paved the whole cost of repairs would be saved; and if the cost of repairs be taken as interest upon capital, it represents (he tells us) a total of £70,000 odd—enough, probably, to pave the whole of the street. It ought to be enough, in other words, we should require a ten million loan to pave the city throughout. But is such a work, if possible, necessary or advisable? Wooden blocks are admirably suited to dead levels or slight inclines, and if built upon honest foundations and kept scrupulously clean make excellent roadways; but there are any number of hills in the city where wooden roadways would be dangerous to both man and beast, and numerous back streets and side streets where it would be an absurd expen-

ture of money to put them down. Then, as to the cost of maintenance being reckoned at the easy sum of nothing. Will that run even with facts already ascertained even in Sydney? Many citizens must be conscious of repairs quite recently effected upon that first piece of wooden work in King-street, and many others will have seen areas of subsidence in Parramatta-street which seem to indicate the necessity of repair at an early period. We cannot leap from chasm to chasm, and boulders and quagmires to perfectly-kept thoroughfares, clean and smooth, all seasons by asingle effort; indeed, there is reason to believe that there has already been enough of this jumping to perfection in patches. What is the use of a hundred yards of well-paved roadway if it is followed by a mile of metallized street, patched with rough rocks and bound with yellow clay that beats to dirt in the sunshine, and churns to violet mud in the rain?

A comprehensive scheme of making and repairing roads is needed, and adaptation of means to ends, the skilful usage of tar and metal where they will supply the best surface, and the steady prosecution of the more elaborate works in the busy central streets. The City Surveyor's report does not give us much hope of any improvement upon the old ways with which we are painfully familiar, nor a very lucid idea as to what we shall pay for our roads, or what roads will be patched or formed in the year which we have recently begun.

The founding of the Austral has very commonly been attributed to her empty water tanks. It seems that she is not the only vessel which sank during 1852 from the same cause. Out of a list of 234 steamships lost in that year the New York *Tribune* makes special reference to one, the circumstances of which may be compared with those involving the case of the Austral. The Escombis, a screw steamer of 2150 tons, when leaving San Francisco laden with wheat for Europe, was observed to have an extraordinary list, which became so great that the keeper of a lighthouse who watched her felt certain that she was in peril, and the same day she capsized just outside the harbour. It was shown on inquiry that the water tanks were empty, and the vessel was "tender," and although the Court at first attributed the steamship's loss to the slowing of the engine in a dangerous sea, that decision was regarded as so unsatisfactory that a further and fuller inquiry was made, when a verdict was returned that the vessel was "dangerously overloaded and quite unstable." Wheat when not in bags is not the safest of cargoes, as it is liable to shift; but where the vessel is fully laden, as the Escombis was, there ought to be no reason for instability. The defective construction of the ship, or the empty water-tanks, would rather be causes of crankiness. An air space beneath the water-line of a loaded ship would have an inevitable tendency to rise to the surface, and, though there was no list from any cause such as the Escombis had, be very apt to make her so unstable in a rough sea as to render her capsize unavoidable. Attention to the water-tanks in an unloaded or partially loaded vessel, as in the case of the Austral, or in a fully or overladen ship such as the Escombis, is a matter of the greatest importance. Out of the total list of steamships lost in 1852, 139 were so-called water-ballast vessels. The construction of these water-ballast tanks and their action on the buoyancy of vessels might well engage the consideration of marine engineers. Our own not excepted, for on this coast there are many vessels fitted with them.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

ABOUT a fortnight ago, one of our cable messages reported that El Mahdi, the false prophet of the Sudan, had invested, with his troops, Darfour, El Obeid, and Kara, and that it would be difficult for the Egyptian Government to send aid to the beleaguered towns in time to save them from falling into El Mahdi's hands. A subsequent message stated that El Obeid, the capital of Kordofan, had been captured by the prophet; and one of our messages this morning reports that Kara, another of the three strongholds, has likewise been captured; and, farther, that there has been skirmishing between the prophet's followers and the Egyptian troops in the neighbourhood of Khartoum.

In France another political crisis has arisen over the recent Bonapartist manifestations. In consequence of the Senate rejecting the bill for dealing with members of ex-reigning families, and passing a decree of banishment against them, the recently-formed Ministry has resigned.

The Imperial Parliament opens to-day. In view of some possible disturbance 700 police are to be placed on guard. Our message gives no indication as to what is likely to give rise to any attempted breach of the peace. It may be that the enthusiastic admirers of Mr. Bradlaugh will, as has often appealed to them to do, "roll up," and support by their presence his claims to a seat.

All musicians, of whatever school, and all lovers of music, will regret to hear of the death of Richard Wagner, the author of many operas, including "Lohengrin" and "Tannhauser." He was born May 22, 1813, at Leipzig, and received his education at Dresden and in the University of Leipzig. In 1836 he accepted the invitation of the London Philharmonic Society to undertake the direction of their concerts for the season. He has, says "The Times," contributed to the musical literature of the day, and his aesthetic opinions, as well as the merits of his operas, have become the subjects of controversy; one party representing him as a musical reformer of great original genius, and the other as a visionary in his notions, and extravagant and unattractive in his music.

Our cablegrams this morning also announce, on the authority of the Times, the death of Cardinal McCabe, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. But our message adds that the announcement is wanting of confirmation. A day or two ago we received a cablegram stating that he was very seriously ill.

The Dublin police are daily procuring additional evidence against the prisoners charged with the Phoenix Park outrage. It is reported that they are in possession of information which proves that Brady and Kelly, the actual authors of Lord Cavanagh and Mr. Burke. To-day, Thursday, the hearing of the charge against all the prisoners, which was adjourned from Saturday last, will be resumed.

The unprecedented rains and floods in the United States have caused widespread destruction of property and loss of life. At Cincinnati the foundations of a railway station gave way, and the building suddenly fell into the river, submerging upwards of 100 persons. At Louisville 80 persons were drowned through the breaking of the dam. About 1000 persons have been rendered homeless, and the greatest distress is said to prevail in the flooded districts.

The inclosed Stock Bill was the principal subject under consideration in the Legislative Council yesterday, and in Committee of the Whole the third and fourth clauses of the bill gave rise to a violent animosity. Mr. Piddington endeavoured to amend the third clause by limiting the currency of the inclosed stock to 30 years, but the amendment was negatived on division by 19 to 10. While the fourth clause was before the committee, Mr. Darley argued that the power intended to be conferred by the clause was not expressed by the words of the clause, and this objection led to the clause being postponed. Progress was then reported, and the House adjourned after sitting until 90 minutes to 11 o'clock.

In the Legislative Assembly yesterday, the initiatory steps were taken towards the introduction of the Land Taxation Bill. Some formal motions were agreed to, after which the House resolved itself into Committees of Ways and Means, and the debate on the Treasury's financial statement was resumed by Mr. J. F. Burns, who was followed by Mr. Buchanan, Sir John Robertson, W. Clarke, and Mr. Stuart. The debate was adjourned until to-day.

Mr. Tancock put a question in the Legislative Assembly yesterday to the Secretary for Public Works, at Waterford, on the 13th December, as reported in the local press:—"To show how the Minister of the English Government in Ireland acted when they were not bound by the strong force of public opinion he might refer to the case of Francis Hyne. The jury in that case were allowed to disperse, and the conviction by a small majority was quashed by the court of law." Mr. Goddard and Smith was £27,716, and this amount became payable on the 24th August last. It was not so paid, as it was under consideration whether the amount should be paid at once, or await the settlement of the question as to costs. Through not

soing so paid the extra sum of £2523 had accrued as interest from that time up to the present date, equal to £14 8s. 4d. per day. The Crown Solicitor had now been instructed to pay the amount, subject to the adjustment of the law expenses.

The following is a return of sums realized "by every species of land sale" during the years 1850, 1851, and 1852, laid on the table of the Legislative Assembly by Mr. Dibsey, in answer to a question of Mr. D. Buchanan.—Auction sales—1850, £157,964 0s. 1d.; 1851, £56,404 0s. 1d.; 1852, £70,564 2s. 1d. Improved purchases—Aug.—1850, £245,004 0s. 8d.; 1851, £49,262 0s. 1d.; 1852, £179,942 1s. 1d. Selections after auction—1850, £12,495 0s. 8d.; 1851, £55,865 7s. 1d.; 1852, £17,715 0s. 5d. Provisional pre-emptive rights—1850, £57,98 10s.; 1851, £2307 1s. 6d.; 1852, £10,841 0s. 4d. Deposits on conditional purchases—1850, £290,587 5s. 1d.; 1851, £129,546 17s. 1d.; 1852, £119,221 0s. 1d. Balances due—1850, £11,011 0s. 10d.; 1851, £82,000 1s. 9d.; 1852, £10,078 1s. 5d. Totals: 1850, £1,177,385 10s. 7d.; 1851, £220,981 0s. 1d.; 1852, £21,167,514 7s. 8d.

Dr. Nott, the superintendent of lunatic asylums in New Zealand, was yesterday morning taken by Dr. Manning to inspect the Receiving-house for Lunatics at Darlinghurst, as a commencement of a series of visits he contemplated paying to all the principal asylums for the insane in this colony.

In the Supreme Court, yesterday, the rules nisi for new trials were disposed of. In Stephen v. Doyle and Toohey v. Commissioners for Railways, the Courts granted rules. In the latter case, the point is involved whether the Tramway Act the Government are empowered to use steam motors in the streets of Sydney. In Solomon v. Bayles, the Court refused a rule.

In Vernon v. Park, a District Court appeal, a rule nisi for a new trial was also discharged. In Sullivan v. Forrester, a rule nisi for a new trial was also discharged. His Honor the Primary Judge was occupied all the morning with applications for probates and letters of administration, considerably over 100 being granted. His Honor also read a minute disclosing a new practice as to the disposal of real property by administrators of intestates' estates. In the afternoon his Honor disposed of some formal equity business.

We are informed that the Hon. Minister for Public Instruction, in response to the request of the inhabitants of Summer Hill, has intimated to the members for Casterton that he has given instructions for the erection of a temporary Public school at Summer Hill for the benefit of the children of the miners.

On Tuesday evening last the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Royal Orange Institution of New South Wales was held in the Protestant Hall, Castle-street, and was attended by delegates representing 196 lodges. The ballot for the Grand Lodge officers resulted in the election of the following gentlemen to the offices specified against their names, viz.: Henry Hicks, R.W.G.M.; R. L. Murray, M.L.A., D.G.M.; J. Joseph, G.S.; Stephen Murphy, D.G.B.; N. J. Mackenzie, G.T.; J. Wheeler, G.F.C.; and Rev. E. J. Madwick, G.C. The P.D.G.M., W. T. Pool, M.L.A., performed the ceremony of installation. In the course of which he addressed words of judicious counsel to the various officers. The R.W.G.M. returned thanks for the unprecedented honour conferred upon him by electing him for the fifth time, and on the last four occasions unanimously, to the position of R.W.G.M. He said that each successive year of his period of office had outrivaled his predecessor in respect to the number of lodges that had been opened therein, and the increasing accession of members to the ranks of the institution. The other officers briefly replied, and then the proceedings were brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

The annual congregational meeting of St. Andrew's Scots Church was held on Thursday evening, the 8th instant, the Rev. Dr. Moore White in the chair. The financial year having been altered so as to coincide with that of the general assembly, the reports covered a period of five quarters. There were 24 admissions to membership. The removals by death and departure to various parts of the colony and elsewhere have been considerable, and the year opens with 190 communicants.

The session, the committee of management, the Sabbath school, the Sabbath morning fellowship association, the young men's society, and other agencies give encouraging reports. The attendance of public worship have increased. The Sabbath collections amounted to £408 1s. 7d., and the total revenue from all sources was £107 0s. 7d. This was exclusive of £2000 from the late Captain Owen Hughes, and of £200 from the late Mrs. Chapman. All expenses were met by the ordinary revenue, and in addition a donation of £100 was given to the general assembly's sustentation fund, and £15 10s. 0d. to the assembly's expense fund: £24 10s. 7d. was placed to the credit of the church repairs fund, and £42 10s. 4d. to the organ fund.

Special testimony was borne by the congregation to the excellence of the psalmody. Votes of thanks to the committee of management, the superintendent and teachers of the Sabbath school, the collectors to the subscription fund, and the choir were passed. The vacancies on the committee were filled by the election of Messrs. J. Hamilton, G. Murray, Houston, Small Lang, J. Vicars, Jun., Bevanage, Maclean, M'Ritchie, White, and Bar.

The annual meeting of the Mariners' Church and Sydney Bethel Union was held on Tuesday evening last, a full report of which will be found in another column.

The annual meeting of the St. Leonards School of Arts was held on Monday last. Dr. Ward occupied the chair, and about 20 members were present. The following gentlemen were nominated as trustees:—Messrs. E. M. Sayers, E. H. Woolcock, F. A. Wilson, J. W. Guise, and J. Armstrong; J. M. Mander, W. V. Whittle, and J. E. B. Newlands; J. M. Mander, Messrs. J. Monday and A. Solomon. Great regret was expressed at the absence of the late president, Mr. W. Tunks, and a unanimous vote of thanks was passed to him for his long and valued services in connection with the institute.

An influential meeting of the inhabitants of Lake Macquarie was held at Fletchell Flat on the 12th instant, to take into consideration various matters affecting the welfare and future progress of the lake and district. A working committee was chosen, and a chairman and secretary appointed, and a general meeting of all interested in the district called for the 26th instant.

The various questions to be discussed on the 26th were brought before the meeting, such as dredging the entrance to the harbour, opening up a passage of road leading from entrance to Lake Macquarie Heads to the junction of the Brisbane and Canning rivers, and thereby affording an outlet for the vast mineral wealth of the district, now practically locked up.

An inquiry will be held to ascertain the amount of damage sustained by the lake and the cost of repairing the same. The lake is said to be 10 miles long, submerging upwards of 100 persons who were in the building at the time. At Louisville, 25 miles lower down on the Ohio, a dam was broken, and 30 persons were drowned by the rush of water before they could effect their escape.

The greatest distress is prevalent throughout the flooded districts, and it is estimated that over 1000 persons have been rendered homeless.

On Gilbert and Sullivan's new opera of "Iolanthe" the following critical notice is given in the New York *Spirit of the Times*:—"It may be musically interesting, but it is not popular. The best of it is only a repetition of what he has done in his other operas." Nor does Mr. Gilbert fare better: "As far as Gilbert's Iolantho, it commences its faults by being too long. It is also too dull, too verbose, too solemn, too bitter. He has pasted on the old patter-song which has been pigeon-holed in his desk for years instead of writing a new one to suit the situation. Overdone, overstrained, clumsy, and wearisome are the adjectives which apply to the book of 'Iolanthe,' and the audience left the theatre thoroughly bored and bitterly disappointed."

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Professions, Trades, &c.

A FIRST-CLASS DRIMSMAKER wanted; open a few days. Rothwell Lodge, Ferry-road, Glebe Point.
A GENIES wanted; big pay to good salaried; small capital required. American Novelty Company, Pitt-street.

A JOBBING HANd JEWELLERY DEPARTMENT, Wiesener's, 10, Pitt-street.

A FEW GOOD DRESSMAKING HANDS wanted; apply to the Head Dressmaker, Hordeyne's, Pitt-street.

BLACK SMITH AND STRIKER wanted stones. King and Pope, wheelwrights, Ultimo-street, Sydney.

BOOT TRADE—Wanted, two men to work at Hainington, Edward-street, Redfern.

BOOT TRADE—Wanted, makers, for youths' and women's E.S. Wright, Hibbert, and Co., 260, Elizabeth-street.

BOOT TRADE—Wanted, FINISHERS, Wright, Hibbert, and Co., 260, Elizabeth-street.

BOOT TRADE—Wanted, good NAIL FINISHERS, Wright, Hibbert, and Co., 260, Elizabeth-street, Ultimo.

BOOT TRADE—Wanted, two general WORKMEN, 45, Elizabeth-street, near Devonshire-street.

BOOT TRADE—Wanted, Finishers two, Men for repairing. J. Scarpe, 205, Elizabeth-street, Strawberry Hills.

BOOT TRADE—Wanted, MEN, to repair. H. W. Adam, 25, Clarence-street, Ultimo.

BOYS wanted, to learn tailoring and cutting; also, Errand Boys. Pitt-street.

BRICKMAKERS, No. 6 Section, S. W. S., Campbelltown.

BUTTON-HOLE HANDS, 26, wanted; also, Coat Hands. Parry, Mackay, and Bauch, Clarence-street.

BRICKMAKERS—Good steady MEN wanted, for Dubbo District; shop work. T. A. Bond, 46, Elizabeth-street.

COLLECTING CLERK wanted; references indispensable; salary, £75 per annum. Apply between 10 and 12 a.m. Deale and Company, Pitt-street.

CANVASSERS wanted, to take orders for Singer's sewing machines, and in addition offered steady reliable work. Apply to the Singer Manufacturing Company, Harbour-street.

COUNTRY TRAVELLER, wanted, to represent a wholesale house, in wares and fancy goods, in the colonies, for exportation, connection, and references. A. A. G., Head Office.

DRESSMAKING—Wanted, Assistants and Improvers. Mrs. Bryon, 171, Windsor-street, Ultimo.

DRESSMAKING—Wanted, ASSISTANTS and IMPROVERS. Apply 8, 30, Elizabeth-street.

DRESSMAKERS, VACANCIES for several good HANDS in our DRESSMAKING WORKROOMS.

Apply between 9 and 11 a.m., or 1 and 3 p.m., to Head Dressmaker.

HORDES BROTHERS, 211, Pitt-street.

ESSEX HILL, close to proposed Bankstown Train Line—ANTED, two men to work at Bankstown, and Assistant. Freshfield and Two men required. Free-hands, no section advertisement. RATT, ROD, and PURVE.

FIELD ASSISTANT, wanted, Draughtsmen. Apply to Oliver Trickett, Pitt-street.

GOOD BRICKMAKER, Apply FitzEvans, 22, Castlereagh-street.

GOOD BRUSH HAND wanted. A. G. Cartwrights, 229, Castlereagh-street.

GOVERNESS open to a RE-ENGAGEMENT after Easter. Civil, Post-office, Williams-street.

GOVERNESS required for Tweed River; English, French, and German. Apply Mrs. G. P. Ellice, 11, Hill-street.

HILL-SIDE CULTIVATION—Wanted, a responsible MAN, capable of ploughing and sowing the best method for retention of cultivated ground upon a hill-side.

App. to Mr. John Smith, 10, Pitt-street, Sydney.

IMPROVERS wanted for the carpentering, 230, Goulburn-street.

Want new ticket-book, S. H. Pitt-street.

MEDICAL—PRACTITIONERS for treatment in all parts of colony. Apply 8, 8, Campbelltown.

MINERS, Pick and Shovel MEN wanted. No. 6, Section, S. W. S., Campbelltown.

MEDICAL MAN, qualified, to travel with experienced agent of Mutual Life Assurance Office. Address Medical, Box 459, Pitt-street.

MEDICAL—Wanted, a duly qualified MEDICAL MAN, to act as Medical Officer to the local surgeon. Paid £500, extra £500 for private practice. Full particulars on application to John Bromhead, secretary, Society of Medical Practitioners, Pitt-street, Sydney.

WAREHOUSEMEN—Wanted, a competent Manager for the kith calendar department. By letter, H. Hall and Co.

WANT, a responsible LAB, about 15 or 16 years of age, to assist in keeping time, office, and factory books. Apply to Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Pitt-street, Sydney.

WANTED, a good DRIMSMAKER. Apply 165, Pitt-street, above Williams-street.

WANTED, a good HAIRCUTTER and SHAVER. J. Mitchell, 160, William-street.

WANTED, a COOK, to make small puddings. Wm. George, baker, 10, Pitt-street, Sydney.

WANTED, a responsible TAILOR, about 15 or 16 years of age, to assist in keeping time, office, and factory books. Apply to Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Pitt-street, Sydney.

WANTED, a good DRIMSMAKER. Apply 165, Pitt-street, above Williams-street.

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WANTED, a COOK, to make small puddings. Wm. George, baker, 10, Pitt-street, Sydney.

WANTED, a first-class DRESSMAKER for country. Apply Monday, 10 and 11, to Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Royal Furnishing Arcade, George-street, Sydney.

WANTED, a good DRIMSMAKER. Apply 165, Pitt-street, Sydney.

PAINTERS,—Wanted, good BRUSH HAND. Australian Youth Hotel, Bay-street, Glebe.

PAPERHANGER required with appliances for immediate work. Apply early, section, Pitt-street.

PARTNERS wanted, with £1000 capital, with experience, to manage Rockwood, Mortlockville.

PERSIERS wanted, competent engineer. A. Chapman, and Co., sheet metal manufacturers, 14, York-street.

PLASTERING and Cementing two Villa Residences; labour only, or labour and material. Tenders called for the above. Apply J. W. WADDELL, Builder, Coolah Villa, North-street, Leichhardt, Box 459, Pitt-street.

QUEENSLAND, No. 1, BRISBANE GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Wanted, an Assistant MISTRESS to teach English Language and Literature, English History and Elementary Mathematics, and one in each Geography, and English, and Mathematics in the Lower School. Salary, £50 per annum.

Ability to help in teaching Singing or Drawing is desirable.

Address Queen's, in or before March 15, 1888, to the Lady Principal, Brisbane.

W. H. OSBORNE.

PARTNERSHIP—£500 to £4000, legitimate business. Apply Imperial Agency Company, 116, Elizabeth-street.

PLASTERER wanted. George Monks, Castle-street, Leichhardt.

REPECTABLE Youths wanted, to learn cutting, and various branches. Apply Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pitt-street.

SHIRT GLASS, 16, 21, and 26, coloured and ornamental. GOOLGET and SMITH, 494, George-street.

RILLED PLATE GLASS—Diamond and rough cast plate. GOOLGET and SMITH, 494, George-street.

SOAPMAKER wanted. Apply 227, Pitt-street; or J. Parker, soap manufacturer, Ultimo.

STATIONER'S JUNIOR ASSISTANT wanted, wholesale warehouse. Apply to Mr. Steiner, Herald Office.

WANT, a good DRIMSMAKER. Apply 165, Pitt-street.

WANT

